



## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

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**TO:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen

**FROM:** Brad Reed, Transportation Planner

**DATE:** August 6, 2010

**RE:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from Thursday August 5, 2010 Meeting

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The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Thursday August 5, 2010 at 9:00AM in Room 205 at the City Municipal Building, 345 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (Chair), Thanh Dang (Public Works), Brad Reed (Public Works), Faith Castellano (Public Works), Sergeant William Keller (Police), Lee Eshelman (JMU), Ben Wyse (citizen), Calvin Ferrell (citizen), Reggie Smith (Transit)

Guests Present included: Thomas Jenkins (Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition)

*Citizens are always provided the opportunity to voice their views/concerns about any item before the commission. It is the policy of the Commission to move the agenda item to the beginning of the meeting when citizens attend Commission meetings to avoid detaining citizens for the entire meeting. However, any citizen is welcome to stay for the entire meeting.*

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*Welcome*

*Old Business*

**1. Sheetz & Chamber of Commerce entrances on Vine St**

Mr. Reed went over the plan set forth in a letter written by Public Works and sent to Sheetz for resolving safety issues on Vine St. The plan is pending approval from Sheetz. This letter has been attached to this summary for reference.

**2. Request for additional street lighting on College Ave**

Ms. Dang reported that there have been no changes on this topic.

### **3. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program - Old Town update**

Ms. Dang informed the Commission that the neighborhood survey is complete and that Public Works is working on compiling the comments. 64 surveys were completed online, while 30 were collected by mail. The most noted problems were as follows: speeding on Franklin, Mason, Grattan, Bruce, and Paul; cut through traffic in the neighborhood to avoid traffic signals on Market St, Cantrell Ave, Reservoir St, and Mason St; and vehicles not stopping at stop signs.

Ms. Dang informed the Commission that a neighborhood meeting will be held August 30<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by Public Works. Sergeant Keller shared that PD monitored for speeding for a week long period and did not give out any tickets. Using data collected by Public Works, he found that speeds were typical of other neighborhoods, with speeds increasing slightly during the AM, lunch, and PM rush periods. He also informed Public Works that the speed limit on Myers is not posted in the NB direction near Franklin St.

Mr. Blessing requested that Public Works notify the Commission members shortly before the neighborhood meeting so they may attend, if desired.

### **4. Request for crosswalk on east side of E Market St and Mason St intersection**

Ms. Dang had no changes on this topic and reminded the Commission that it is being researched in tandem with the Old Town NTCP study.

### **5. Request for crosswalk at University Blvd and Driver Dr**

Mr. Eshelman explained to the Commission that JMU desires a lighted crosswalk at this location because there are a fair number of people wishing to cross at this location that tend to be hindered by traffic volume and higher than posted speeds. Ms. Dang and Mr. Eshelman will be looking into this matter and reporting to the Commission.

#### *New Business*

### **6. Proposal for Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Ms. Dang and Mr. Jenkins shared their proposed concept for the formation of a Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee that will report to the Commission. This subcommittee will handle the details of bike/ped matters for which there is not enough discussion time during Commission meetings. Discussion was held concerning the details of the term limit and meeting frequency. The Commission recommended that these details be worked out by the subcommittee at their first meeting. Mr. Blessing requested that Mr. Jenkins take on the role of chairman for the subcommittee for now until otherwise decided at the subcommittee meetings. Ms. Dang informed the group that applications to join the subcommittee and additional information will be posted at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped). The outline of the subcommittee's structure can also be found at this web address.

### *Other Business/ Announcements*

#### **7. Update of 2010 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Council action**

Ms. Dang shared the news that the plan was adopted on July 27 by City Council and that improvements are underway already with bike lanes on S Main St, Central Ave, and Park Rd. Later this year, bike lanes will be installed on Vine Street from N Main St to Washington St and trial sharrows will be installed on S Dogwood Dr from W Market St to Maryland Ave. Ms. Dang explained that City staff plan to stick closely to the 2 & 5 year improvement goals set forth in the plan.

Mr. Wyse expressed concern about enforcement of no parking in bike lanes and expects the learning curve to be about 6 months for motorists. This expectation was also shared by Sergeant Keller, also explaining that police will be enforcing the law with ticketing. Ms. Dang explained her plan to prevent this by installing temporary signs to indicate that there is to be no parking in the bike lane. Mr. Blessing recommended that community outreach be performed to help citizens learn about this law.

#### **8. Request for letter of support for TIGER II Grant**

Ms. Dang thanked the Commission for their letter of support with the first TIGER grant last September and requested that a letter be written in support of the TIGER II grant for which the City is applying. The Commission gave its support of this grant and Mr. Blessing signed the letter suggested by Public Works. This letter is attached to this summary for reference.

#### **9. Recurring sight distance issues**

Mr. Blessing expressed concern that past sight distance problems have been reappearing now that summer is here. He suggested that landowners be encouraged to keep up with trimming their brush each year without having to be reminded. Mr. Reed requested that Commission members send any sight distance issues to Kenny Knight, Street Superintendent.

#### **10. Transit Updates**

Mr. Smith shared that new bus shelters are being installed soon and that an RFP is out for real-time, online tracking of bus locations and expected arrival. Transit is currently working on applying for an exemption from the FTA to perform transit and school bus service simultaneously. Transit is also working to build a new facility, the plans for which will be drawn up next year.

### *Adjourn*



# The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Public Works Department  
320 East Mosby Road  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Phone: 540-434-5928 FAX: 540-434-2695

STREET MAINTENANCE  
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
REFUSE/ RECYCLING  
RESOURCE RECOVERY  
CENTRAL STORES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. Robert C. Lunger  
125 South Augusta Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

RE: Sheetz Store – 798 East Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA

Dear Mr. Lunger:

Thank you for attending the July Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission meeting held on Thursday, July 8, 2010. We appreciate your willingness to discuss the safety issues at the Sheetz entrance point on Vine Street. As you know, the City has concerns about safety related to ingress and egress from this location and this matter has been reviewed by the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission multiple times in the past. After receiving further input from you, we propose the following course of action:

*Step 1:* Public Works staff will place a sign on Sheetz property instructing that there are to be no left turn movements exiting the property onto Vine Street. Likewise, we will also sign this on Vine Street to restrict left turns into the entrance. This will be installed within the next two weeks and there will not be a time of day restriction in place. At the Commission meeting, we discussed that ingress/egress poses problems at multiple times of the day. To avoid confusion, the left turns in and out need to be restricted 24 hours a day. Public Works will monitor with video camera to discern if simply signing the entrance is effective. We plan to allow a sixty day period to monitor and observe the entrance.

*Step 2:* Based on our data collection, should we find that signage does not improve safety at the entrance/exit, Public Works will proceed to place delineators in the entrance to physically force vehicles to make either a right in/right out or a right in only movement. This will be performed at no expense to Sheetz. Public Works will monitor this modification for a period of sixty days.

*Step 3a:* If the physical devices are found effective, the City will partner with Sheetz to make the modifications permanent. Public Works will cost share the labor component of the entrance modifications and Sheetz will pay for the material cost.

*Step 3b:* If Sheetz is not agreeable to a permanent modification to the entrance/exit, but staff recommends that the modification occur; Public Works will propose to place delineators on the double yellow line in Vine Street to restrict left movements in and out of Sheetz and effectively eliminate lefts in and out of the Chamber of Commerce. Sheetz and the Chamber may appeal this decision to City Council for final determination.

Please sign in agreement to this concept and process for moving forward. We appreciate your willingness to consider all the options available to make Vine Street and your property as safe as possible.



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Sincerely,

Andrew D. Williams, AICP  
Assistant Director of Public Works

I agree to this concept and process and am authorized by Sheetz to make such a commitment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

C: File  
William E. Blessing, Chair, Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission  
Commission Members  
Kurt D. Hodgen, City Manager  
James D. Baker, Public Works Director  
Frank Tamberrino, President, Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce

## HARRISONBURG TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 5, 2010

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Grant – Support for City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Virginia

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission strongly supports the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Virginia's grant application to the US Department of Transportation for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant.

The Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission is a City Council appointed commission of citizens and city staff who promote transportation safety. We review and make recommendations to City Council and staff on any dangerous situation, condition or location within the City of Harrisonburg.

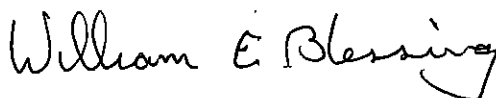
We recognized that there are great opportunities to improve transportation safety with the construction of the proposed Southeast Connector. The project:

- In Phase I, eliminated railroad trestle near State Highway Route 42, that was one-lane wide, was difficult for motorists to see oncoming traffic through, and was a bottleneck to the transportation system;
- Will eliminate one at-grade railroad crossing on Stone Spring Road by constructing a bridge over it near State Highway Route 11; and
- Will remove east-west traffic from residential areas by providing an alternative higher capacity roadway.

Additionally, the Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission welcomes the Southeast Connector's efforts to tackle the impediments of safe walking and bicycling in our community with the construction of sidewalks and bicycle lanes along the project corridor.

We urge you to support this grant for the Southeast Connector in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, Virginia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Blessing". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William E. Blessing, Chairman